[Mr. N. Nilakanta Pillai.]

were forthcoming and, therefore, the shops were opened. There is no increase in the number of shops originally sanctioned.

Coimbatore Sheep in the Trivandrum Silk Farm.

63. **MR. S. PIRAVIPERUMAL PILLAI** (*Commerce and Industry, South*): Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) the strength of the flock of Coimbatore sheep in the Silk Farm at Trivandrum at the beginning of the year 1099?

(*b*) the number of births during the year 1099?

(*c*) the number of deaths during the year 1099; and

(*d*) the number sold to the public during the year 1099?

MR. N. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Secretary to Government on other duty*):

(*a*) 49

(*b*) 11

(*c*) 2

(*d*) 12.

MR. S. PIRAVIPERUMAL PILLAI (*Commerce and Industry, South*): With reference to the answer to part (*d*), will the member be pleased to refer to the statement given under this head in the report on the Department of Agriculture for the year 1099?

MR. N. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Secretary to Government on other duty*) I have referred to the report.

MR. S. PIRAVIPERUMAL PILLAI (*Commerce and Industry, South*): The number given there is *six*. But it is stated here as *twelve*.

MR. N. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Secretary to Government on other duty*): There is a discrepancy in figures in the report you refer to. It must be due to printer's devil or a clerical error. But the correct number is *twelve* as now stated.

Sinking of Wells for Agricultural purposes.

64. **MR. S. PIRAVIPERUMAL PILLAI** (*Commerce and Industry, South*): With reference to the statement made by the Dewan in February 1924 at the twentieth session of the Assembly, *viz.*, "the Industrial Engineer is investigating the problem of sinking wells and lifting water on high level lands where commercial crops like banana and sugarcane can be profitably grown," will the Government be pleased to state whether the investigation is completed, and, if so, what action they have taken in the matter?

MR. N. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Secretary to Government on other duty*): The investigation regarding lift irrigation has been completed and the Department of Industries is now in a position to advise prospective purchasers regarding the choice of suitable pumps and elevators for agricultural purposes. As regards well-sinking, a series of boring experiments have to be carried on to find out the depth of the water-bearing strata. For this purpose, a power-driven drill has been purchased by Government, with which a systematic investigation will be undertaken.

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